

## Message Text

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46

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00

ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03

OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/146 W

----- 111324

R 031420Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3760

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0836

FOR RFA'S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS MR AG PO SP SF KS

SUBJ: FOREIGN FISHING IN MAURITANIA

1. DURING RECENT VISIT TO MAURITANIA (GIRM) THE RFA AND DCM  
OBTAINED INFO CONCERNING FISHING OPERATIONS BY NATIONS NOT  
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OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY GIRM, AS FOLLOWS:

A. SOUTH AFRICA: A 20,000 TO 30,000 GROSS REGISTERED TON (GRT) FISHMEAL FACTORYSHIP WITH 20 SEINERS AND EQUIPPED WITH A HELICOPTER IS FISHING OFF MAURITANIAN COASTS. VESSEL NAMED INTERPECHE, WHICH IS ALSO NAME OF FIRM WHICH SUPPLIED SOCIETE MAURITANIENNE DES INDUSTRIES DE LA PECHE (COMIP) WITH FISH FROM 1970-72. VESSEL REPORTEDLY FLIES DUTCH FLAG. INDUSTRY SOURCE REPORTED VESSEL IS ACTUALLY SOUTH AFRICAN AND THAT ORGANIZATION IS HEADED BY SOUTH AFRICAN NAMED BUTZ WHO WORKS OUT OF TENERIFE IN CANARY ISLANDS. COMPANY MAY BE REGISTERED IN EITHER BARBADOS OR BERMUDA. ACCORDING TO BRAHIM OULD DHERAT, CHEF DE LA CIRCONSCRIPTION MARITIME DE NOUADHIBOU (CMN) FIRM WILL SUPPLY SOMIP WITH RAW FISH ONCE WORLD FISHMEAL PRICES REACH \$300/TON. BRAHIM DID NOT MENTION SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION. IF TRUE, INFO WOULD BE POLITICALLY EMBARRASSING TO GIRM, BUT INDICATES GREATER NEED TO MAINTAIN FLOW OF SUPPLIES REGARDLESS OF PARTNER.

B. SOUTH KOREA: MAURITANIAN FISHERY COMPANY (MAFCO), 100 PERCENT OWNED BY TAIYO, MITSUBISHI AND MARUBENI, REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN PROJECT TO BRING 15 ROK STERN TRAWLERS INTO LOCAL WATERS UNDER PANAMANIAN FLAG. GIRM DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ROK, BUT DOES MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH DPRK. CMN CHEF BRAHIM TOLD RFA IN CONFIDENCE THAT ATAKA COMPANY REP IN SPANISH FACTORY ACTUALLY INSPECTING FISH PRODUCTS FOR DELIVERY TO ROK. BRAHIM ALSO TOLD RFA HE HAD VISITED DPRK AS PART OF PRESIDENTIAL DEL SENT TO CELEBRATE KIM IL SUNG' ANNIVERSARY; HE IS NOT OVERLY PRO-DPRK FOLLOWING HIS VISIT.

C. PORTUGAL: ON APRIL 3, 1967 THE PANAMANIAN FISHERY FIRM PESQUERIAS DE PANAMA SIGNED AN ACCORD WITH GIRM TO PERMIT 35 TRAWLERS TO FISH LOCAL WATERS. BRAHIM INDICATED VESSELS WERE NO LONGER OPERATING IN LOCAL WATERS SINCE "NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN INITIATED WITH PORTUGAL'S NEW GOVERNMENT" TO DEVELOP A FISHERIES AGREEMENT. GIRM DID NOT MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELS WITH PORTUGAL DURING PREVIOUS REGIME. IT WAS RATHER WIDELY KNOWN THAT PORTUGUESE WERE, IN FACT, FISHING UNDER PANAMANIAN FLAG DURING PAST FEW YEARS. THIS FACT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT ROK FLEET MAY OPERATE UNDER THIS GUISE IN FUTURE. DCM HAS EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN THIS DEVELOPMENT AND WILL PROVIDE ALERT REPORTING ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

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2. INFORMATION WAS ALSO DEVELOPED ON "SPECIAL" OPERATIONS INVOLVING LOCAL FISHERIES:

A. ALGERIA/ THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA OPERATE A JOINT VENTURE FISHERY FIRM CALLED LA SOCIETE ALGERO-MAURITANIENNE DE PECHE (ALMAP). FIRM HAS FOUR 105-GRT TRAWLERS MANNED FULLY BY MAURITANIANS. VESSELS ARRIVED IN JANUARY 1975 AND HAVE BEEN

ON STRIKE SINCE SEPTEMBER. DEP DIR HAMADI OUADHOUR INDICATES FIRM IS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL GESTURE SINCE NO EXPATRIATE CREWS ARE INVOLVED AND SINCE VENTURE IS LOSING MONEY. ALGERIA HAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A SIMILAR OPERATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU.

B. EGYPT: RASS EL BAR AND RASS BENAS, BOTH 2,000 GRT VESSELS OPERATE IN LOCAL WATERS WITHOUT HAVING TO LAND A PORTION OF THEIR CATCH, WITHOUT EMPLOYING LOCAL FISHERMEN, AND WITHOUT PAYING ANY FEES. ACCORDING TO CMN CHEF BRAHIM "SPECIAL ARAB TIES" IS REASON FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT.

C. SPAIN: SPANISH FIRM INDUSTRIES MAURITANIENNES DE PECHE (IMAPEC) IS OPERATING AT A NEAR STAND-STILL WITH ONLY FROZEN FISH SECTOR OPERATING. SPANISH TECHNICIAN AT PLANT, WHEN QUESTIONED, REPLIED SIMPLY "POLITICA" INDICATING UNSPOKEN CONSENSUS THAT SPAIN IS OPERATING PLANT AS SIGN OF POLITICAL INTEREST; IMAPEC INITIALLY ESTABLISHED AND BUILT BY SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL BODY INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LA INDUSTRIA DE MADRID. PLANT IS PRESENTLY BEING SUPPLIED BY USSR FLEET.

3. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE FROM INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES WHICH RFA WISHES TO PROTECT.

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## Message Attributes

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